Appln. No. 09/923,615
Amendment dated: March 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 27, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): An electronic document management system for verifying the

contents of an electronic document exchanged through a network, said contents

defining said electronic document and comprising a predetermined electronic form

template and variable data input by a user into said predetermined electronic form

template, said system comprising:

(a)   at least one data storage means;

(b)   a data capturing component for capturing and validating said user-input

variable data and, thereafter, forwarding said validated user-input variable

data to said storage means for storage thereby;

(c)   a document digest generator for generating a unique document digest from

said stored validated user-input variable data and said template defining said

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electronic document by applying a secure algorithm thereto, whereby said

document digest is uniquely associated with said defined electronic

document, and forwarding said document digest to said storage means for

storage in association with said defined electronic document;

(d)   a barcode generator for generating for each page of said electronic document

a unique barcode associated with that page, based on paging details

identifying that page and _._ said document digest, and a unique document

revision number generated for said electronic document wherein multiple said

unique barcodes are generated where said electronic document comprises

multiple pages, with one unique barcode being generated for and associated

with each page of said mulitple multiple pages;

(e)   a document forwarding component for forwarding said defined electronic

document with said unique barcodes added to said pages of said electronic

document associated therewith for use by a user;

(f)   a document receiving component for receiving from a user a signed

electronic document comprising variable data and a barcode for each page of

said document; and,

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(g)   a barcode verification component for determining the validity of each said

barcode of said received electronic document wherein said document digest

component of said barcode is compared to said stored document digest

associated with said defined electronic document.

2 (previously presented): An electronic document management system according to

claim 1 wherein a unique document number is generated for said defined electronic

document, said unique document number is stored in said storage means in

association with said defined electronic document and said bases for generating said

barcodes include said unique document number.

Claim 3 (previously cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): An electronic document management system according

to claim 2 wherein a unique document revision number is generated for said defined

electronic document, said unique document revision number is stored in said storage

means in association with said defined electronic document and said bases for

generating said barcodes are generated from include said unique document revision

number .

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Claim 5 (previously cancelled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): An electronic document management system

according to claim 4 and further comprising a document image generator for generating

an electronic image of said barcoded defined electronic document, wherein said

document forwarding component forwards said electronic image.

Claim 7 (original): An electronic document management system according to claim 6

wherein said received electronic document has been hand-signed and faxed by said

user.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An electronic document management system

according to claim 6 and further comprising a digital exchange key generator for

generating a unique digital exchange key associated with said defined electronic

document, said generated unique digital exchange key being generated by applying

another secure algorithm to said electronic image, and forwarding said digital exchange

key for storage.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An electronic document management system

according to claim 8 wherein said electronic document received by said document

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receiving component comprises a digital signature and said system further comprises a

digital signature authentication component for authenticating said digital signature and

a digital exchange key verification component for determining the validity of said

received electronic document, wherein said digital exchange key verification component

determines a digital exchange key by applying said other secure algorithm to said

received electronic document and comparing said determined digital exchange key to

said stored unique digital exchange key associated with said defined electronic

document.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for managing and verifying the contents of an

electronic document exchanged through a network said contents defining said

electronic document and comprising a predetermined electronic form template and

variable data input by a user into said predetermined electronic form template, said

method comprising:

(a)   capturing and validating said user-input variable data and, thereafter, storing
        said validated user-input variable data;

(b)   generating a unique document digest from said stored validated user-input
        variable data and said template defining said electronic document by applying

a secure algorithm thereto whereby said document digest is uniquely

associated with said defined electronic document, and forwarding said

document digest for storage in association with said defined electronic

document;

(c)   generating a unique document revision number for said electronic document;

(c) (d)   generating for each page of said electronic document a unique barcode

associated with that page, based on paging details identifying that page ,

and said document digest and said revision number, whereby multiple said

unique barcodes are generated where said electronic document comprises

multiple pages, with one unique barcode being generated for and associated

with each page of said mulitple multiple pages;

(d) (e)   forwarding said defined electronic document with each said unique barcode

added to said specific page of said electronic document associated therewith

for use by a user;

(e) (f)   receiving from a user a signed electronic document comprising variable data

and a barcode for each page of said document; and,

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(f) (g)   determining the validity of each said barcode of a document received by said

document receiving component wherein said document digest component of

said barcode is compared to said stored document digest associated with

said defined electronic document.

Claim 11 (previously cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10 and further

comprising generating a unique document number for said defined electronic document

and storing said unique document number in association with said defined electronic

document, whereby said bases for generating said barcodes include unique document

number.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method according to claim 12 and further comprising

generating a unique document revision number for said defined electronic document

and storing said unique document revision number in association with said defined

electronic document ,whereby said bases for generating said barcodes include said

unique document revision number.

Claim 14 (previously cancelled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to claim 13 and further comprising generating an electronic image of said barcoded defined electronic document and forwarding said image for use by a user.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method according to claim 15 and further comprising generating a unique digital exchange key associated with said defined electronic document by applying another secure algorithm to said electronic image and forwarding said digital exchange key for storage.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16 whereby said electronic document received by said document receiving component comprises a digital signature, said method further comprising:

(a)   authenticating said digital signature; and,

(b)   determining the validity of said received electronic document by applying said other secure algorithm to said received electronic document and comparing the resulting determined digital exchange key to said stored unique digital exchange key associated with said defined electronic document.

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Claim 18 (original): A method according to claim 15 whereby said received electronic

document has been hand-signed and faxed by said user.

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